(d) The Ministry sanctions new VTCs on the basis of complete proposals received from the State Govts, and subject to availability of funds. The complete proposals including details of already operational VTCs, utilization certificates in respect of funds released previously, and details of new VTCs proposed to be set up.

**Insurance coverage scheme for primitive tribal groups**

2240. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified 75 primitive tribal groups to provide the benefit of insurance coverage under the Jaishree Bima Yojana of LIC and had prepared a scheme for their habitat development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also working on a plan to rope in banks to provide micro finance to tribals for income-generating activities through self help groups; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R'. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b)The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has, since 2004-05, launched an insurance scheme known as the Janashree Bima Yojana to cover in a phased manner, all families of the 75 identified Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs). The scheme is implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India under the umbrella scheme of 'Development of Primitive Tribal Groups' and insures the head of each PTG family for five years against accidental death, permanent disability, natural death, partial disability, etc. The Ministry has released Rs. 20.47 crore up to 2006-07, to cover 4,09,500 heads of PTG families at a premium of Rs. 500/- per head.

The umbrella scheme of Development of Primitive Tribal Groups can cover any kind of development scheme. The Ministry has advised the State Governments to place emphasis on hamlet/habitat development of PTGs.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry and the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) have taken a preliminary decision that the commercial banks will act as additional channelising

agencies of the NSTFDC so as to ensure greater flow of funds to eligible Scheduled Tribe persons for undertaking income generating activities (self-employment ventures). This includes channelising of funds for Micro Credit Activities through Self Help Groups (SHGs).

**Crime against children**

2241. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crime against children in India increased by 3.8 per cent nationally and child rape increased by 13.7 per cent;

(b) whether it is a fact that nearly 45,000 children go missing every year and more than 11,000 are never traced;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Central Monitoring Commission which is supposed to monitor crime against children under the Juvenile Justice Act, has not met even once since the Act was amended in the year 2000; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to protect children in India against crime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), crime against children in India increased by 3.8 per cent nationally and child rape increased by 13.7 per cent during 2005 as compared to 2004.

(b) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in collaboration with the UNIFEM and the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi conducted an Action Research on Trafficking in Women and Children in India (ARTWAC), the report of which was released in August, 2004. As per the report, the number of children reported missing from the States/Union Territories comes to an average of 44,476 per year based upon the data compiled for the six year period from 1996 to 2001. The report also mentions that out of the average 44,476 children per annum repotted as missing, an average 11,008 children per annum continued to remain missing or untraced.